ARTICLES
OF
VISITATION
AND
ENQUIRY
Exhibited to the
MINISTERS
CHURCH-WARDENS and SIDE-MEN
Of every Pariſh in the Trienniall Epiſcopal Viſitation
Of the Right Reverend Father in God
JOHN
By Divine Permiſſion Lord Biſhop of
OXFORD, Dioceſe

Printed at the THEATER, 1682.

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The tenor of the Oath to be adminiſtred to the Church-wardens and Side-men of every Pariſh.

YOU ſhall ſwear truly and faithfully to execute the Office of a Church-warden within your Pariſh, and according to the beſt of your skill and knowledge preſent ſuch Things and Perſons, as you know to be preſentable by the Laws Eccleſiaſtical of this Realm. So help you God, and by the Contents of this Book.

ARTICLES OF INSTRUCTION FOR VISITATION and ENQUIRY In the *DIOCESS of OXFORD.*

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches and Chapels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

1. IS your Church or Chapel in good and ſufficient repare, and ſo decently and cleanly kept as becomes the houſe of God?

2. Is the Furniture of your Church or Chapel, as Bells, Communion-plate and Cloths, Miniſters ſurplice, Pulpit-cloth, Herſe-cloth, with other uſual Ornaments, duly provided and decently kept?

3. Have you a fair Bible, book of Common-prayer, books of Homilies, and Canons; a Regiſter of Births, Burials, and Marriages, and is the ſaid Regiſter duly kept, and the tranſcript return'd every year into the Biſhops Re-

Regiſtry? Have you alſo a Regiſter of ſuch Strangers as are admitted to Preach; and a book for the entry of the Church-wardens accounts? and are the ſaid books carefully lookt to, and conſtantly emploied?

Tit. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houſes, Glebes, and Tithes belonging to the Church.

1. IS your Church-yard ſufficiently fenced and preſerved from anoiance, encrochments, and waſt?

2. Is the dwelling-houſe, and all the out-houſes of your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, kept in good repare: and are the Glebe-lands, Orchards, Gardens, and other eaſments belonging to them, preſerv'd from being embezel'd, or endammag'd? And have you a perfect Terrer of ſuch Glebe-lands, Orchards, &c. and alſo of Penſions, Tithes, and compoſitions as belong unto them?

Tit. III.

Concerning Miniſters.

1. HAve you a Parſon, Vicar, or Curate legally ſettled among you? Is he a pluraliſt, and if ſo, how diſtant are his cures? if he be not inſtituted and inducted, but only admitted as into a Donative or Curacy, for how long time has this bin don? and is there no memory that the cure has bin preſentative?

2. Is your Miniſter conſtantly reſident? or how long, and on what occaſion is he abſent? has he a Curate? how

how is he licenſed, and how maintain'd? During his abſence, what care is taken for hoſpitality, and charity to the poor?

3. Do's your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate conſtantly, reverently, and regularly officiate on the Lords daies, Holidaies, and the Eves of them; as alſo read the Litany upon all wedneſdaies, and fridaies weekly; and obſerve Rogation and Ember daies according to the order of the Church; and ſo perform all offices, without addition or diminution.

4 Do's your Miniſter diligently inſtruct the youth of your Pariſh in the Church Catechiſm? and do's he endeavor to reclame all profane perſons, Papiſts, and Sectaries; and preſs the great duties of piety, juſtice, temperance, charity, allegiance, and conformity? And is he diligent in viſiting the ſick, and ſatisfying the doubts of troubled conſciences? Laſtly is he peaceable, ſober, and exemplary in his converſation, and grave in his demeanor, company, hair, and apparel?

Tit. IV.

Concerning the Pariſhioners.

1. ARe there in your Pariſh any perſons known or reputed to be Jews, Heretics, or Schiſmatics, whether Papiſts or Fanatics? what are the numbers of each particular Sect of them? and are they ſtudious to pervert the Orthodox; or inſolent towards them for doing their duty?

2. Are any of your Pariſh known or ſuſpected to be guilty of Inceſt, Adultery, Fornication, or any other enormous crimes? Have any bin married clancularly,

or

or without bans or licence? Do any profane the Lords day, or the Name of God, or are irreverent in the Church, or neglect the respective duties incumbent on them in reference to the Sacrament of Baptism, and the Lords Supper, and other Rites; as of Catechizing, Confirmation, Thanksgiving after Child-birth, Burial of the dead, or the censures of the Church?

3 Are the Wills and Testaments of the dead in your Parish, or the Administration of their Goods duly taken out and executed? Have any Lands, Legacies, or charitable gifts bestowed on your Parish, or any other good uses, bin embezled, or unduly disposed of?

Tit. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

1. HAve you belonging to your Parish or Chapelry a sufficient Clerk or Sexton, do's he faithfully and diligently execute his office; and constantly and tunably begin the Psalm before Sermons, and in the other intervals of divine Service?

Tit. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, Scholes, Scholemasters, Physicians, Chirurgions, and Midwives.

1. IS there in your Parish any Hospital, Almes-house, or Free-schole? how are they endowed, ordered, and governed? Do's any one keep Schole without license from the Bishop: or if licensed, neglect to teach the Youth committed to him the Catechism of the Church,

Church, and Grammar set forth by autority; and to bring them to the Service of the Church?

2 Do's any in your Parish practise Physic, or Chirurgery, or do the Office of a Midwife, without approbation and licence from the Ordinary?

Tit. VII.

Concerning Ecclesiastical Officers.

1. HAve any Officers that exercise Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction in this Dioces; taken, or exacted any excessive Fees for any Cause or Act; or any Bribe, or Reward for the concelement or impunity of delinquents: or sped any Act privately, and not in the presence of a public Notar?

2. Is the number of the Apparitors in this Dioces excessive; have they summon'd any person unlawfully; or taken reward for concelements; or threatned prosecutions where they had no reward, or otherwise misbehaved themselves in their Office.

Advertisements.

I. THe Minister of every Parish may joyn in presentment with the Church-wardens and Sidemen; and if they fail to present, the Ministers themselves (who have the highest obligation to endeavour the suppressing of impiety and disorder) may do it. *Can. 113*

II. The Ministers are to take notice, that the Bishop at his Visitation will be ready to confirm the Youth that shall be fitted and brought before him: and will at other convenient times, when he shall know that any con-

considerable number of persons are fitted for confirmation, come on purpose to administer the said Rite, and therefore the Ministers are desired in the method formerly recommended to them, by diligent Catechizing to prepare those under their charge; and to bring them, at the times appointed unto the Bishop.

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